

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Insert the following new paragraph after line 7 on page 9 of the specification:

An embodiment of the present invention is a thermal barrier coating material applicable to a thermal barrier coating for coating the surface of a base metal, comprising as a main component an oxide expressed by the composition formula $\text{La}_{(1-x)}\text{M}''_x\text{TaO}_4$ (where $0 < x \leq 1$, and M'' is a metal element selected from the group consisting of Al, V, Cr, Fe, Ga, Y, Rh, In, Ce, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, and Lu).